

FALCON REFINERY

Ingleside, Texas

The Falcon Refinery site occupies approximately 104 acres in San Patricio County, Texas, and is located 1.7 miles southeast of State Highway 361 on FM 2725 at the northwest and southeast corners of Farm to Market 2725 and Bishop Road. The site is bordered by wetlands to the northeast and southeast, residential areas to the north and southwest, an abandoned refinery to the northwest, and a construction company to the southwest. The site is being proposed to the NPL based on evidence that hazardous substances, including arsenic, barium, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, vanadium, zinc and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have migrated or could potentially migrate from the facility to active fisheries and sensitive environments within the adjacent wetlands, Redfish Bay, Aransas Bay, and Corpus Christi Bay.

The Falcon Refinery facility consists of a refinery that has operated intermittently since 1980 and is currently inactive. When in operation, the refinery operated at a 40,000 barrels per day capacity with primary products consisting of naphtha, jet fuel, kerosene, diesel, and fuel oil. Another portion of the site includes a dock facility on Redfish Bay where materials were transferred between barges and storage tanks. The refinery processed material that consisted of not only crude oil but also contained hazardous substances including K048 (dissolved air flotation float), K049 (slop oil emulsion solids), K050 (heat exchanger bundle cleaning sludge), and K051 (API separator sludge) wastes. Other wastes at the site include: (1) vinyl acetate detected inside tanks during a EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID) criminal investigation and a TNRCC Region 14 sampling event, (2) cooling tower sludges containing chromium, (3) non crude oil constituents detected in a pipeline spill, (4) untreated wastewater release inside tank berms, and (5) leaking drums.

The history of this site is marked by the numerous complaints by nearby residents as early as 1978 concerning the construction of the facility along Redfish Bay, odors allegedly produced from processing impure crude in 1985-86 and then to odors associated with a spill in 2000. On March 12, 1986, an inspection conducted by the Texas Water Commission revealed that the company had disposed of cooling tower sludges on-site and untreated wastewater in tankage was discharged into sandy, unlined containment structures. On November 15, 1995, during a hydrostatic pipeline test, a spill of approximately eight barrels of a crude oil mixture occurred in the wetlands adjacent to the facility. During a January 2000 compliance inspection, TNRCC observed a leak from a tank in a naphtha stabilizer unit. TNRCC estimated that approximately 220 gallons of industrial waste had leaked from the tank. In response, TNRCC conducted soil and sediment sampling activities in May 2000.

During the 2000 Expanded Site Inspection, TNRCC documented the presence of fluoranthene, pyrene, benzo(a)anthracene, chrysene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, benzo(a)pyrene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, benzo(g,h,i) perylene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, barium, manganese, and mercury in sediment samples collected from the nearby wetlands and Redfish Bay. Redfish Bay supports an active finfish and shellfish fishery, and potential habitat areas for several State and Federal threatened or endangered species, including the brown pelican and reddish egret, and Kemp's ridley sea turtle. The Redfish Bay, Aransas Bay, Corpus Christi Bay system is a designated National Estuary.

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GULFCO MARINE MAINTENANCE

Freeport, Texas

The Gulfco Marine Maintenance (Gulfco), facility encompasses 40 acres in Freeport, Brazoria County, Texas. The facility historically was used as a barge cleaning and servicing facility. The Gulfco site encompasses three buried/backfilled surface impoundments that received contaminated wash water from the barge cleaning operations, areas of contaminated soil, and releases to surface water and ground water. The site is being proposed to the NPL based on evidence that hazardous substances, including semivolatile organic compounds, lead, zinc, and pesticides, have migrated from the facility to the Intracoastal Waterway, pose a threat to nearby drinking water supplies and downstream sensitive environments, and have impacted fisheries downstream of the facility.

Gulfco operated as a barge cleaning and waste disposal facility from 1971 through 1979. Operations at the facility involved the cleaning, servicing, and repair of various chemical barges. Chemical barges were drained and pumped to remove product heels, which then were stored in tanks and sold as product. Each barge was washed with water or a detergent solution. Generated wash waters were stored either in surface impoundments, a floating barge, or on-site storage tanks. The barges were allowed to air dry and certified as safe prior to initiating repair work such as welding and sandblasting.

The surface impoundments received wash water from the cleaning of barges and other transport vessels that carried organic substances including alcohols, ketones, and crude oil. Waste wash water generated during the cleaning of chemical barges and other vessels was hard-piped to the surface impoundments for evaporation and separation. The maximum inventory of waste at any given time was 5.5 million gallons. The surface impoundments were certified closed in August 1982, following removal of the liquids and sludges, solidification of the remaining sludge with soil, and capping with three feet of clay cover and a hard wearing surface. Some sludge reportedly remained in one of the surface impoundments at the time of closure.

Underlying the Gulfco site is the Chicot/Evangeline aquifer system. This aquifer system is a major source of municipal and smaller public water supply systems in the Freeport area. The largest public water supply system within 4 miles of the site is that of the city of Freeport, which supplies approximately 11,300 people. The city of Freeport uses 100 percent of the surface water supplied by the Brazos Water Authority. The city also has seven ground water wells, two of which are maintained for emergency use only, and have not been used for drinking water for several years. The remaining wells are scheduled to be abandoned.

The site lies within the 100-year coastal floodplain along the north bank of the Intracoastal Waterway between Oyster Creek to the east and the Old Brazos River Channel and the Dow Barge Canal to the west. The southern part of the Gulfco site drains to the south where it enters the Intracoastal Waterway, which is a fishery. The surface water migration pathway extends in all directions within contiguous surface water bodies since these surface water bodies are tidally influenced. Surface water flows eastward into the Drum Bay, Christmas Bay, Bastrop Bay, and Galveston Bay. Galveston Bay is the seventh largest estuary in the United States and is designated as a National Estuary as part of the National Estuaries Program. In addition, Christmas Bay is designated as the Christmas Bay Coastal Preserve of the Texas Coastal Preserve Program, and harbors eight endangered or threatened species including the Bald Eagle, Brown Pelican, Peregrine Falcon, Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, Reddish Egret, White-faced Ibis, and Green Sea Turtle. The 12,199-acre Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge is located to the south of Bastrop Bayou and contains the habitats of three state-threatened species, including the Wood Stork, White-tailed Hawk, and the Swallow-tailed Kite. A wetland area is located approximately 500 feet south of the site across the Intracoastal Waterway. This area is classified as intertidal estuarine, emergent, persistent, and regularly flooded. Twenty miles of wetland frontage lie within 15 stream miles of the site.

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For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html> or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.

HARBOR OIL
Portland, Oregon

Harbor Oil is a waste oil reprocessing facility located on approximately 4.2 acres in an industrial area of Portland, Oregon. The site formerly also operated as a tank truck cleaning facility. In late 1980, the facility submitted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part A Permit Application indicating the company's main business was reclaiming industrial fuel/lubricating oils and waste solvents. A revised RCRA Part A application stated the company did not reclaim used solvents and that its business was the collection of used oils and asphalts which are processed and re-refined into usable products.

Currently, onsite petroleum recovery process tanks consist of a 4,000-gallon diesel fuel storage tank; six 20,000-gallon heated storage tanks; six 20,000-gallon cold storage tanks; and 205,000-gallon and 320,000-gallon cold storage tanks. These tanks hold used petroleum products in varying stages of recovery.

Waste oils received at the facility are first transferred into heat tanks for dehydration, distillation, and blending. Following heat processing, the blended oils flow through an oil/water separator. The separated oils are transferred into settling tanks equipped with filters. The separated water is piped into a surge tank. Processed oils are transferred into storage tanks.

In March 1974, there was a major spill or release of waste oil from on site storage tanks. In addition, in October 1979, a severe fire destroyed the facility and melted/ruptured five 20,000-gallon aboveground used oil tanks. The incident caused large volumes of used oils and smaller volumes of waste paints to flow west and south across the site, into the wetlands that border the site and Force Lake.

In July and August 2000, consultants for the EPA conducted a Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection at the facility. Historical documentation, sampling, and analytical results document the presence of several hazardous substances on-site including volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, metals, pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls. Two sources of contamination were documented: waste oil storage tanks and contaminated soil.

The 15-mile target distance limit (TDL) for this site begins at a permitted outfall which is located in the wetlands west of the site and continues south for approximately 300 feet through the wetlands to Force Lake, and ends at the southern shore of this lake, a distance of approximately 0.2 miles. Force Lake is a spring and seep-fed lake. Force Lake drains a fairly small surface area, but the water level is maintained by ground water inflow from the springs and seeps.

Force Lake supports recreational fishing activities. A large palustrine emergent seasonally flooded wetland having a perimeter of approximately 1.3 miles is located immediately west and south of the site.

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LAMMERS BARREL
Beavercreek, Ohio

The Lammers Barrel property is now a vacant lot, approximately two acres in size, located in Beavercreek, Ohio. The property is bisected by Little Beaver Creek which flows west to east through the site. The property is bordered to the west and south by Grange Hall Road and East Patterson Road, respectively. An abandoned railroad right of way makes up the northern border. The facility experienced a fire in 1969, that completely destroyed the buildings. The only structures remaining are a concrete pad, a non-functional production well, and pipes that appear to run from the former facility to the creek.

Operations began at Lammers Barrel Factory in 1953 and continued until the fire in October 1969. According to former employees, the facility bought, sold and reclaimed all types of solvents. Any inventories of chemicals handled at the facility were reportedly destroyed in the fire. During operation, the facility had an above-ground storage capacity of over 500,000 gallons. This consisted of eighteen vertical tanks, ranging in size from 2,500 to 25,000 gallons and approximately 6,000 55-gallon drums.

Sampling of residential wells began in the mid-1980s. In 1985, analyses of approximately 90 residential well samples throughout Beavercreek identified an area of ground water contamination along the northern end of the Valleywood subdivision, located southeast of the facility. Sampling revealed that the presence of vinyl chloride was above the federal maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water in some wells. Several wells contained other volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as chloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethene, perchloroethylene, and trichloroethylene. As a result, the Ohio National Guard brought a 350-gallon mobile water tank as an emergency water supply to five homes along Patterson Road. Nine homes that exceeded removal action levels of VOCs in drinking water were subsequently connected to the county municipal water system.

Periodic ground water sampling has continued since 1985, resulting in the extension of the county water line or installation of filtration systems at several homes. Sampling efforts in 1988, 1991 and 1997 show that the contaminated ground water plume has advanced into the adjacent Valleywood subdivision. In 1992, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency conducted a Site Inspection (SI) at the site. Six soil samples, four sediment and four surface water samples from Little Beaver Creek were collected along with additional residential well samples. The six soil samples from the site indicate the presence of VOCs, lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The creek sediment samples revealed low concentrations of xylenes and heavy metals.

An Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was prepared for the U.S. EPA in 1997. Soil, sediment and ground water samples were collected in March, April, June and August of 1997. A total of 71 residential well samples from 54 homes were collected. VOCs were detected in 28 of the wells sampled serving 54 homes. Most of the homes sampled had been sampled in previous investigations. Some samples were collected from residential wells at homes that had already been connected to the municipal system to identify the extent of the plume. Sediment samples collected from Little Beaver Creek identified the presence of VOCs and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs).

Soil contaminant concentrations indicate two potential source areas for ground water contamination, on each side of Little Beaver Creek. Both areas of subsurface soil contamination lie near the level of the water table. Similar VOCs were detected in both on-site soil and monitoring well samples, and off-site residential well samples. Concentrations of VOCs in on-site soils indicate that they may be the source of the ground water contamination plume.

Similar contaminants were also detected in on-site sediment and soil samples, indicating that the site may actually be impacting the sediments and associated water quality of Little Beaver Creek. Little Beaver Creek flows into the Little Miami National and State Scenic River, a popular recreation and wildlife area. Possible targets along the river in the vicinity of the site include a human food chain fishery, wetlands and a state threatened species.

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PESTICIDE WAREHOUSE III

Manati, Puerto Rico

The Pesticide Warehouse III (PWIII) site is an active facility located at Road No. 670, kilometer (km) 3.7, in a rural/residential area of Manati, Puerto Rico. The site is approximately 2 acres in size and consists of a main warehouse, a smaller warehouse, and a small shed which contains an on-site well. The PWIII site is bounded to the south by Road No. 670, to the west and north by fields, and to the east by a church and a retirement home. The Puerto Rico Land Authority (PRLA) owned and operated the site from 1954 to 1996. Site operations during this period included the preparation of pesticides/insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. The site is currently privately owned and operated.

In 1996-1997, EPA conducted a Site Inspection (SI) investigation which consisted of an on-site reconnaissance and a subsequent sampling site inspection. During the reconnaissance, the following were noted to be stored in bags within the main warehouse: magnesium sulfate, Ochoa fertilizer, sulfate of potash, zinc sulfate, ferrous sulfate, urea, MoCap 10G, Karmex DF, Baylethon, Hyvar X, Nemacor 3, and Solobar. Spilled materials were noted throughout the warehouse. In addition, stained soils were noted throughout the site. Surface drainage was observed to be toward the west, where it entered a drainage ditch. This ditch extended along the western and northern boundaries of the site, where it terminated in a leach pit located north of the on-site buildings. This pit was observed to be unlined and appeared to be a natural sinkhole.

Based on the potential for pesticide contamination on site and the potential impact to off-site receptors, EPA conducted an SI sampling event which included the collection of 15 surface soil samples (depth: 0 to 6 inches) at locations both on and off the PWIII site. Diazinon, Malathion, Diuron, and Toxaphene were detected in on-site surface soil samples at concentrations significantly above background. These contaminants were also detected at concentrations significantly above background in samples collected from the drainage ditch and associated leach pit. These contaminants were either observed on site or were listed in site Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Other pesticides detected in on-site soils at concentrations significantly above background included alpha-BHC, Heptachlor, Aldrin, Endosulfan I, Dieldrin, Endrin, alpha-Chlordane, and gamma-Chlordane. Several pesticides detected on the PWIII site exceeded EPA Soil Screening Levels (SSLs). Zinc was also detected at concentrations significantly above background in both on-site soils and the retirement home located adjacent to the PWIII site. The contamination is related to improper handling of pesticides/insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.

Two sources have been identified for the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) evaluation of the site: contaminated soil and the drainage ditch and associated leach pit. There are other areas of environmental concern, such as a pit observed at the bottom of a former truck scale located south of the main warehouse entrance, and a cistern located below the ruined northeast portion of the main warehouse building, and suspected asbestos-containing materials located on some of the piping runs within the small warehouse.

Ground water threatened by the PWIII site serves an approximate population of 118,970 people. These people obtain potable water from wells screened in the North Coast Limestone Aquifer System (i.e., the aquifer of concern), which has karst aquifers beneath the site. The nearest potable well is the Coto Sur No. 5, which is located approximately 700 feet west of the PWIII site. This well serves an approximate population of 1,260 people. In addition, analytical data from the SI indicates that there is documented soil contamination at the nearby retirement home, which has a building within 15 feet from the eastern border of the PWIII property. The population of the retirement home is estimated to be 50 people. There are currently 20 workers at the PWIII site.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

September 2002

OSWER/OERR

State, Tribal, and Site Identification Center

Washington, DC 20460

UNITED METALS, INC.

Marianna, Florida

The United Metals, Inc., site is located in Marianna, Jackson County, Florida, approximately 2.5 miles south of Interstate 10 and approximately 1,000 feet east of State Road 71. The site, which is now abandoned, was used primarily as a lead-acid and nickel-cadmium battery reclamation facility. The site is being proposed to the NPL because a release of lead, chromium, and other metals has been documented in facility soils, in a nearby wetland, and in a habitat used by a Federally threatened species. The release also poses a threat to a downstream recreational fishery and additional wetland areas.

From 1979 until 1991, United Metals, Inc., processed and recycled used batteries within a 24-acre fenced area at its Marianna facility. In 1981, the facility processed as many as 10,000 to 12,000 batteries per week, resulting in 2,500 gallons of acidic wastes per day. Until sometime in the early 1980s, treated and possibly untreated wastewater from the recycling process flowed into a settling basin, then into concrete basins, and finally through a ditch to an unlined holding pond. A second holding pond was constructed to provide additional capacity, but allegedly was never used. The wastewater system eventually was modified so that the wastewater was stored in tanks, eliminating the discharge to the holding pond. The holding ponds subsequently were abandoned, dredged, and backfilled. Dredged sediments from the holding ponds and from contaminated drainage ditches currently are stockpiled in the recycling building on site.

During the 1980s, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (FDER) conducted several inspections at the facility. In August 1981, FDER and United Metals, Inc., entered into a Consent Order that required numerous actions to be undertaken by United Metals, including payment of a fine, submittal of a detailed plan evaluating the wastewater system, identification of environmental problems, completion of a limited ground water assessment, and proposal of corrective actions. In July 1986, EPA conducted a RCRA program inspection. EPA noted that RCRA violations persisted, including improper closure of the holding ponds following sediment removal, improper storage of hazardous wastes, inadequate ground water monitoring, and operating without appropriate permits for hazardous waste storage and treatment. As a result of these violations, EPA issued an Amended Complaint and Compliance Order.

United Metals, Inc., discontinued recycling operations and sold the facility to Anrich Industries, Inc. Anrich subsequently renovated the facility and began battery cracking operations in May 1991. On May 22, 1991, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) conducted a Hazardous Waste Inspection of the facility. FDEP noted several RCRA violations and, in July 1991, ordered that all operations cease. In June 1993, a Site Inspection was conducted that included the collection of 15 soil samples and the installation of five monitoring wells. Soil samples collected from the facility production area and drainage ditches were found to be contaminated with lead. In 1994, an Expanded Site Investigation confirmed the presence of lead at significant levels in facility soils and in the drainage ditch that flows into the wetland area.

In March 1995, the EPA Removal Assessment Team conducted a site visit to determine the site's eligibility for a removal action. EPA collected six surface soils samples, four waste samples from 55-gallon drums and three storage tanks, and two water samples to identify the nature and extent of contamination and to identify the immediate threat to the public and environment. Lead was detected in soils, a flammable liquid was discovered in drums, and 800 gallons of sulfuric acid was found in an on-site storage tank. As a result of these findings, EPA initiated limited removal activities in January 1996, and returned in March 1996 to complete the removal.

The main area of concern at the United Metals, Inc., facility is contaminated soil where the battery recycling activities were performed, as well as contaminated soil along the drainage route to the wetland area located west of the facility. Metals contamination has been documented in the wetland, which also serves as a habitat for the Flatwoods Salamander, a Federally threatened species.

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WARD TRANSFORMER
Raleigh, North Carolina

The Ward Transformer site is located near the Raleigh Durham International Airport in a predominantly industrial area of Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina. The site encompasses an active electrical transformer building/reconditioning facility constructed in 1964 on 11 acres of previously undeveloped land. A perennial stream bordered by wetlands leads from the property to a recreational lake and fishery. The closest residence, the only one within 1/4 mile of the site, is approximately 300 feet northeast of the Ward Transformer property. The site is being proposed to the NPL because elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, furans, arsenic, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, and zinc, all attributable to facility operations, have been found throughout the site, and elevated concentrations of PCBs have been detected in surface water downstream of the site, posing a threat to recreational fisheries and wetlands.

Prior to 1972, stormwater runoff flow from the facility was uncontrolled. Two impoundments were constructed around 1972 to collect runoff, and in 1979, a retaining wall (curb height) was constructed around the facility to direct runoff into the impoundment. An onsite treatment plant, installed in 1979, removes PCBs from the impoundment water prior to its discharge. Recent inspections by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality show that the treatment facility is in compliance.

The facility currently incinerates used transformer parts in a permitted onsite burnoff oven/incinerator and reclaims copper from the resulting ash. Recent inspections by the North Carolina Division of Air Quality indicate that the incinerator is in compliance with its permit. Prior to the installation of the incinerator, transformer parts were burned in the open air to reclaim copper. A concrete area near the incinerator is covered with dark, oily soil. In 1978 and 1979, EPA collected samples on the facility property and from an unnamed tributary and Little Brier Creek downstream from the facility. PCB contamination was found in soil, in the stormwater impoundment, and water and sediment collected from the unnamed tributary and Little Brier Creek. No additional action was taken by the EPA on the site until 1993. Prompted by reports of bankruptcy, EPA conducted a removal investigation and no contaminants were detected above removal action levels.

The North Carolina Superfund Section's Preliminary Assessment (PA) conducted in 1994, and subsequent Site Inspection (SI) performed in 1995, recommended further action under CERCLA as part of an Expanded Site Inspection. In 1997, samples were collected for the Expanded Site Inspection by the North Carolina Superfund Section. Soil at the wooded rear of the Ward property, outside fencing or curbing, contained PCB 1260, manganese, zinc, 1,2,3,7,8 pentachlorodibenzofuran, and octachlorodibenzofuran. Sediment collected along the shoreline of the impoundment showed PCB 1260. Soil near the incinerator contained Aroclor 1260, dioxins, arsenic, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, and zinc. Aroclor 1260 was also found in sediment samples collected from the unnamed tributary and Little Brier Creek less than a mile downstream of the site.

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